

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

TUESDAY JULY 31

Mr. Wise is explaining the meaning of 16 to 1 to his Hawaiian friends although it is 32 to 1 that he is not quite sure whether the thing is a sum in fractions or a recipe for coldslaw.

Municipalities mean high taxes; high taxes mean high rents; high rents mean higher prices of everything sold in rented stores. What would be got by way of compensation except fat offices for the job-chasers?

It is hardly probable that the Dillingham interview cost the Oiaa promoters anything like \$50,000. At regular rates the price would have been \$14,700 for the three morning papers but on so large a "reading ad." the figures must have been considerably less.

Waikuu is a "wayside town" now and will never be anything else if it adds township, village and county taxes to its burdens. But pause, faint heart! Perhaps Waikuu aspires to be the county seat and perhaps our confederate of the Maui News wants to do the county printing. Hooray for expenses providing they are paid to us.

It will probably be a current idea in the Democratic campaign that the sugar trust annexed Hawaii. That is the way political history is made. Already the charge appears in Democratic prints, although no one knows better than those Democrats who made an annexation fight here and elsewhere that the Sugar Trust was the greatest obstacle in the path of success.

The Bulletin says: "According to the Advertiser's municipal arguments, the new buildings going up in Honolulu ought not to be equipped with elevators, because the people got along without them in previous years, besides it costs more to run them." According to the Bulletin's ideas, if the elevator doesn't work well and generally falls with its passengers we ought to have one in every small building. Otherwise we are not "American."

THE MUNICIPAL QUESTION.

There is no trouble, as our Keala correspondent shows, to make a good argument in favor of the principle which underlies the municipal idea. In theory this principle is perfect but in practice it only works out well where constituencies are ripe for it. An Anglo-Saxon country like England or a Celtic country like Scotland can make a success of local self-government where countries occupied by other races fail. The Latins are kept more or less under the ban of their military and even the Teutonic races do not always appear to advantage in the exercise of municipal functions on a large scale. In Berlin the lower classes have so far gotten the upper hand, politically, that the Emperor proposes to ask for a property and intellectual voting qualification which shall give each suffragist who is able to meet it three ballots to one for the proletarian. Such a qualification now prevails in the Netherlands.

The success or failure of the municipal experiment in the United States likewise depends on the quality of the electorate. Where the pure Anglo-Saxon strain is found, as in the State of Maine, for example, there is not much trouble in running a local government to the satisfaction of the people. But mixed populations or large populations develop problems which municipal science is vainly battling with. In the South politics and public rule have passed by dint of force and fraud to the responsible whites. That is because the rule of the ignorant, though legally ordained, became intolerable. New York, where municipal proceedings have been scandalous for the past forty years, presents problems both of race and numbers. The half-alien majority looks upon all government as the organized means of plunder; and the population is so great and the distractions of life so numerous that good men either hesitate to wield the implements of change upon so vast a mountain or they are lured from the politics of reform to some more engaging task. Looking over the whole American field we find that small cities, where the Anglo-Saxon instinct predominates, do pretty well with municipalities; that large cities where the same conditions prevail do tolerably well; and that mixed populations, especially where the aliens are in a majority or are the most active in political work, do not succeed at all. No reform of government is sought more eagerly in the United States than the reform of municipalities. Here is the one weak spot in the American system. Here is the sore that will not heal. Is it not vastly significant, in view of the issues before us in Hawaii, that even the best of municipalities in the United States fall indubitably below the civic standard of Washington, the government of which is so much like that of Honolulu and Hilo.

The Advertiser admits that the time may come when Hawaii will find it best to divide official responsibility between the Territory, the county, the city, the township and the village. But assuredly the Islands cannot do it now without grave harm to their vital interests. Our population is not of the kind, as yet, to make the best use of civic opportunities. The leaders of the party which claims a majority of votes make no concealment of their intent to plunder the public treasury. They want as many offices as possible to use in that predatory work. If their plan succeeds taxes will be raised enormously and rents will go up in the same ratio. The increase of taxes must, indeed, raise the price of all the necessities of life; and that, in turn, will reduce the volume of immigration and of incoming investment capital. If administrative things are kept as they are for a few years Hawaii will be populous enough in conservative people and rich enough in assessed valuation to handle the municipal issue with some chances of success. Haste means waste and worse than waste; and seeing how well things are being managed now, why should we take such risks?

THE FUTURE OF CHINA.

A critic of the theory of partition for China says that to draw dividing lines would be like cutting up an Apache reservation. There would be just as many Apaches left and, owing to the multiplicity of guardians, there would be more to irritate them. We might afford to irritate the Apaches, he says, because we are strong enough to crush the tribe; but how about such a policy towards the "Chinese savages," who number four hundred millions? Would not partition mean interminable war? And if so, would it not be better to let China stay as she is and withdraw foreign influences from her until the empire gets ready, as Japan did, to seek them of her own accord?

Those who have lived among the Chinese here, in California or in their own country, would be last to group them with savages, despite the horrors of the present uprising of their dangerous classes. No race can be judged by its worst elements, our own no more than the Mongol. When a great mob ravaged New York in 1863 and again in 1871 and when Chicago rocked in 1886 to the reverberations of murderous bombs; when helpless Chhiamen were stoned to death in the streets of San Francisco and negroes were burned at the stake in Texas, the American people were not thereby classed as a barbarous nation. And though the proportion of savage rioters is greater in China than in white countries, the masses of the people remain peaceable and industrious, just as they are here and to a great extent in California. They are ready to accept any government that gives them life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We find a strong illustration of this truth in the history of Japanese rule in the Chinese city of Kinchow, during the war of 1894-95. At first, on being captured, the natives (Mandchurians) shut themselves in their houses and stores and hardly dared peep out by day or venture forth by night. Finally when they found that the Japanese respected their rights of property some of them began to trade with the newcomers in rice and fowls. As the Japanese paid liberally and always in silver, the Chinese ventured further and opened general stores, which did a thriving trade. If soldiers did any pilfering they were promptly brought before a court where the Japanese civil governor sat with Chinese side-judges and dispensed justice according to the wisdom of Solomon. Confidence in the courts being established the whole Chinese population went to work for their conquerors in a most friendly spirit. Under the rule of their Mandarins the Kinchow cart-drivers had earned the promise of fifteen cents per day in brass cash for ten or twelve hours' hauling; under Japanese rule they got one yen per day in silver for the same amount of work. They were sure of their daily wage and what they earned they did not have to divide with an official.

Thereupon the natural thing came to pass. The Manchus did not want to return to their native jurisdiction; they begged that their late enemies would stay forever. When the Civil Governor left Kinchow to accompany the troops that crossed the Gulf of Pechili to capture Wei-Hai-Wei, the citizens of Kinchow addressed a memorial to the Emperor of Japan asking that the new orders be recalled. They were frantic when they learned that the Japanese intended to give Kinchow and the surrounding province of Liaotung back to China and all that were able to move asked permission to settle in Japan.

This brief narrative of an interesting historical fact, the truth of which is a matter of personal reminiscence, convinces us that partition would be greedily received by the mass of the Chinese people, providing they could be assured of good government and immunity from official blackmail. That is about all they ask—a chance to live and let live. They have no visible love for the Chinese empire and most of them never saw the Chinese flag. Many of them dislike the foreigner but that is because they take him for a thief. Convince these people that the foreigner means to deal fairly with them and enhance their material welfare and they will prefer his rule to that of the mandarins. We shall have a peaceful and industrious China if the powers do their full duty as the agents and protectors of civilization; we may never have one if the natives are left to their own sad devices.

Nobody has asked for a government precisely like that of the city of Washington, though such a government is quite as American as any other. The point is that we can get along better at present, just as Washington is doing, without the municipal form. By common consent Washington is the best-governed city of the United States with the possible and sole exception of Honolulu. Its debt, which is large, is not piling up now but is a bequest from the days of Boss Shepherd—whose counterpart we should probably develop here after a short experience with municipal job-chasers.

Prof. Lyons' weather reports are all right for Punahou, but when the mercury stands at 87 degrees fahrenheit there, it is apt to be hotter than that in the ice chests down town.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Automobiles Run With Liquid Air.

Senator John P. Jones, of Nevada, and others took a half mile ride in New York the other day in an automobile propelled by liquid air. The machine was guided up the boulevard under the direction of the chief engineer of the liquid air company, who wanted to show how well the motive power worked. The experiment looked like a success. The liquid air apparatus consisted of three tanks and a collection of pipes, the whole weighing 125 pounds. The machinery worked noiselessly and the motion of the vehicle was smooth and rapid. Liquid air can be sold at present at 15 cents a gallon, which would enable an automobile to be propelled at a cost of two cents a mile. The engineer said that eventually the machines will be made so that they will manufacture the liquid air as it is needed en route.

Successful Treatment.

One of Philadelphia's bright young surgeons recently demonstrated in a rather ridiculous manner the fact that imagination plays an important part in both ailment and cure. The president of a financial institution has for some time been laboring under the delusion that hair was growing in his throat. He visited doctor after doctor, and they

all laughed at him. "The thing is preposterous," they said, after careful examination. But still the man insisted that they were wrong, and worked himself into a condition bordering on nervous prostration. Finally he went to the young surgeon in question, who at once decided upon a plan of action. "I'll fix you all right in a jiffy," he said. Then he went into an ante-room, snipped a couple of hairs from his wrist, and fastened them to the end of an instrument. Returning to the patient, he inserted the instrument down the man's throat, gave a little jab and pulled it out again. There were the hairs, sure enough. It was a stroke of genius, sure enough, for the man with an imaginary complaint at once resumed his normal condition, and the young surgeon was rewarded with a fat fee.

A Sanguine New Yorker.

"I believe McKinley's plurality in New York state will be 50,000 greater this year than it was four years ago," said a prominent Republican from the western part of the Empire state a day or two ago. "It would not surprise me to see him carry the state by a plurality over Bryan of more than 300,000. Every condition that contributed to McKinley's great vote in New York four years ago still exists, and he has now many elements of strength he did not have in 1896. I do not believe that Bryan will gain back any considerable number of gold Democratic votes, and I know that many Democrats who voted for him four years ago, because they could not so suddenly bring themselves to break away from their party ties, will this year vote the Republican ticket."

New Trans-Atlantic Bacter.

The Deutschland, the new ocean kindred, whose maiden trip to New York this week was a record breaker, cost 14,000,000 marks, or about \$3,322,000. She has a displacement of 23,200 tons, a measurement of 16,200 tons registered and a horsepower of 35,000. Her total length is 684 feet and she has accommodation for 1,057 passengers and a crew of 525. She brings with her on first trip 850 saloon passengers, including those of the disabled White Star liner, Teutonic, which is under repair on the other side of the ocean. The Deutschland is considered the finest specimen of modern shipbuilding for passenger service that has been produced.

A Good Word for Hobson.

The Rev. Dr. Barton has been saying kind words for the young hero Hobson. He held that Hobson has been "sacrificed to the hysteria of the nation," that he had been made to suffer "chiefly for the sins of others," and that the people, by their conduct toward him, had shown how easy it is to make perilous the homecoming of a hero. "Henceforth," the orator added, "the conqueror has less to fear from enemies on the field than from his friends at home." He, therefore, pleaded that we should "forget the hour of folly and remember the hour of courage."

A Fatal Spite Fence.

Something new in the spite fence folly is reported from Elizabethtown, N. J., where an outbreak of virulent diphtheria in the family of E. M. Eadie is attributed by the attending physician to the dampness caused in the Eadie house by a fence nearly sixty feet long and at one point thirty-six feet high, built by a next door neighbor. One boy of 11 years old and a baby are dead from the disease and the father is critically ill.

Humboldt Letters Found.

Berlin papers record the finding of a hitherto unknown Humboldt correspondence. There are about 200 of the great scientist's letters, written from Berlin and Potsdam, between 1830 and 1840, and full of confidential information about the court and political, military and scientific notabilities.

First American Roosevelt.

Theodore Roosevelt's first ancestor to come to this country was Kias Martensen Van Roosevelt, who came here in 1649 with his wife, Janette S. Samuels-Thomson, from the Netherlands. He settled in New Amsterdam and soon became a prosperous burgher.

TOPICS IN BRIEF.

Foreigner: "How are your Senators elected?" American: "None of them will tell."—Puck.

Some mayors cut considerable ice. In other cases the ice cuts the mayor.—The New York Press.

The Chinese are to blame for all these wars, anyway. They invented gunpowder.—The Baltimore American.

In time the verb "to roosevelt," ought to fill a long-felt want in the English language.—The Detroit News.

The turning of public interest China-wards will eliminate the whisker feature from the war pictures.—The Detroit Tribune.

The Clark and Daly factions each denounces the other as a disgrace to the State of Montana. They're both right.—The Philadelphia Ledger.

All of us hope that it will not cost the lives of more than 1,200 or 1,500 United States soldiers and marines to protect the lives of the 84 missionaries who are in danger.—The Detroit News.

These Chinese towns have perfectly ridiculous names. Why can't they call themselves something sensible, like Skowhegan, for instance, or Punxsutawney, or Caucomogoc, or Kaumazoo?—The Boston Globe.

"Your life is like a romance with each session of Congress as a chapter, isn't it?" exclaimed the highly imaginative young woman. "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum; "and there is a lot of excitement sometimes in wondering whether there is going to be any 'continued in our next.'"—The Washington Star.

"What is the cause of your antipathy to foreigners?" asked the knowledge-seeker. "Well," answered the Chinaman, "we're afraid pretty soon we'll be having trolley cars, and then we'll be told to step lively, and then we'll have franchise scandals in our city councils, and altogether we feel as if we were taking terrible chances."—The Washington Star.

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